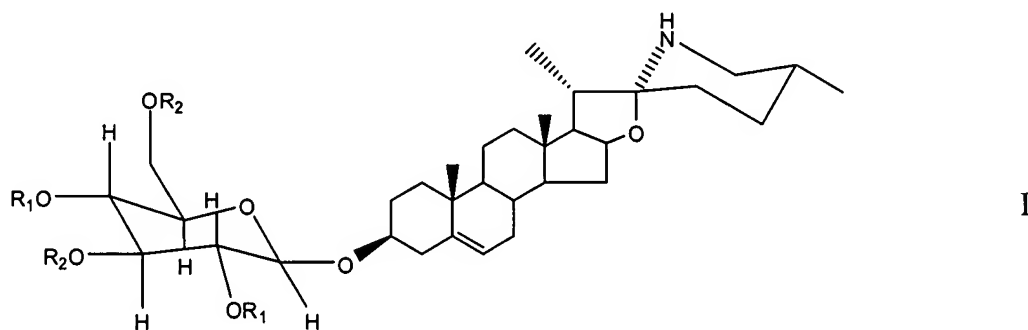


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the following Listing of Claims.

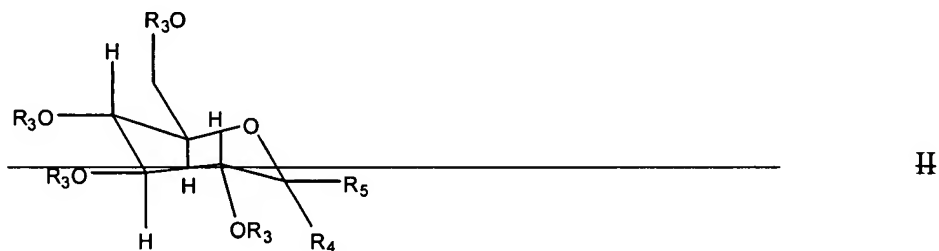
Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A glucose-solasodine conjugate of the general formula I or a derivative thereof



wherein each of R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and represents a benzoyl or a pivaloyl group.

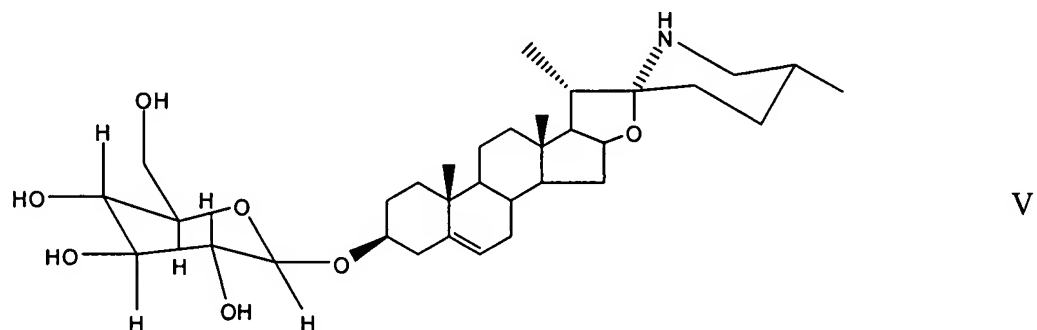
2. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of the glucose-solasodine conjugate as defined in claim 1, comprising the reaction of solasodine with tetra-O-benzoyl- α -D-glucopyranosyl bromide, tetra-O-acetyl- α -D-glucopyranosyl bromide or tetra-O-pivaloyl- α -D-glucopyranosyl bromide; a glucopyranosyl donor of generic formula II



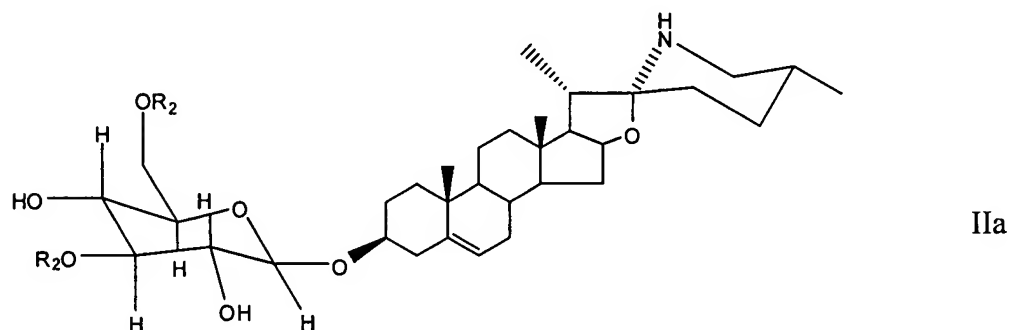
wherein each R_3 independently represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivaloyl group,

wherein R_4 is halogen selected from Cl, Br or I and R_5 is hydrogen or R_4 is hydrogen and R_5 is SEt or SPh,

followed by optionally de-protecting the obtained glycoside to yield a compound of the formula V

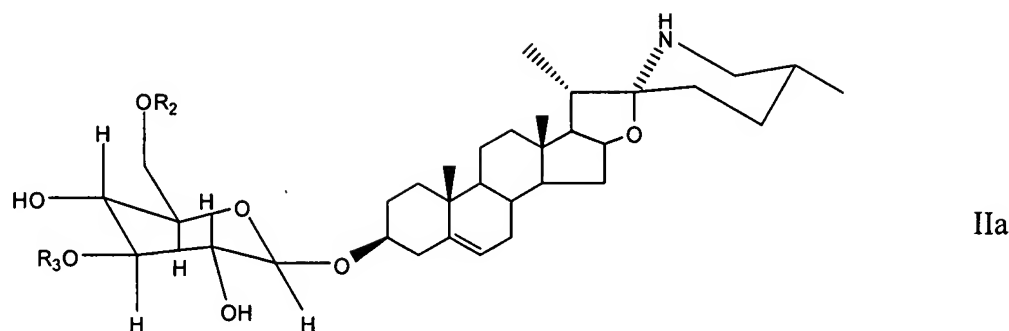


and reesterification of the most reactive hydroxyl groups (OH-3 and OH-6) to yield a compound of the formula IIa

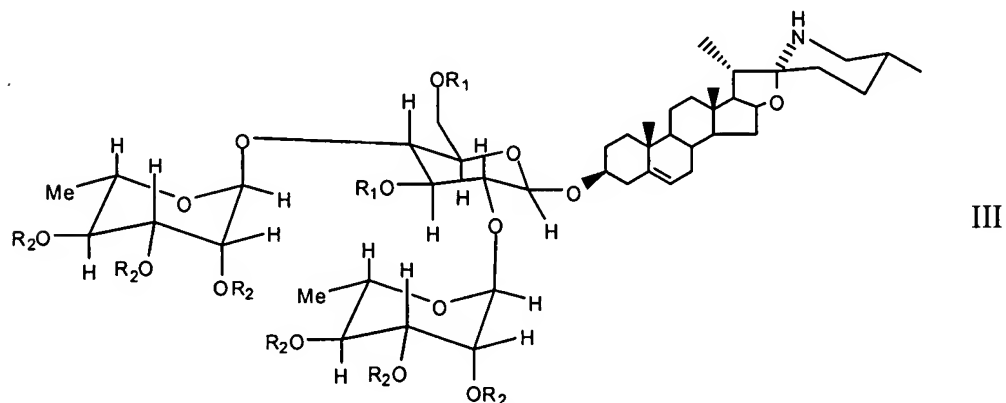


wherein R₂ is a group selected from pivaloyl or acetyl.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of solamargine comprising the glycosylation of the diol of formula IIa,



wherein R_2 is defined as in claim 1, with tri-O-benzoyl- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl bromide or tri-O-pivaloyl- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl trichloroacetimidate ~~an α -L-rhamnopyranosyl donor~~ to yield protected solamargine of formula III (1) which is de-esterified to yield solamargine of formula III (2)



- (1) R_1 =Piv and R_2 = Benzoyl or Acetyl
- (2) R_1 = R_2 =H

4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The method according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the glycosylation reaction is carried out in the presence of a promoter selected from silver trifluoromethane sulfonate (silver triflate), boron trifluoride diethyl etherate, trimethylsilyl triflate bromide, N-iodosuccinimide or dimethyl thiomethyl sulfonium triflate, silver trifluoromethyltriflate.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the protected glycoside is deprotected in methanol-dichloromethane solution by treatment with sodium methoxide, followed by neutralization with solid CO₂ or mild acid ion-exchange resin.
7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the most reactive hydroxyl groups (OH-3 and OH-6) are protected by reesterification with pivaloyl chloride in pyridine solution.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the protected solamargine is de-esterified by treatment with a base selected from sodium methoxide or sodium hydroxide in methanol-dichloromethane solution or a methanol-tetrahydrofuran-water mixture followed by neutralization with solid CO₂ or mild acid ion-exchange resin.